

*Before the Board of Supervisors in and for the
County of Monterey, State of California*

Resolution No.:

Adopt Resolution in Support of Campaign to Increase Enrollment in California's Low-Income Rate Assistance Programs

WHEREAS, electric and gas bills represent the second-highest living cost behind rent for residents of **Monterey County**. Nearly 70% of the 3.3 million low-income households in California are classified as energy insecure¹; and

WHEREAS, an energy burden is the percentage of income that is spent on energy bills. *High* energy burdens persist in low-income homes as a result of households allocating a disproportionate amount of their income on utility-related expenses; and

WHEREAS, a decrease in income in addition to Shelter-in-Place orders have resulted in higher residential energy bills which have perpetuated an already serious problem of energy insecurity for low-income households

WHEREAS, the California Public Utilities Commission instituted a moratorium that prohibits disconnections for non-payment until April 2021 for all residential households due to the COVID-19 pandemic. While the moratorium pauses shutoffs due to nonpayment, those in arrears face the possibility of being shut off when the moratorium is lifted; and

WHEREAS, enrollment in low-income rate assistance programs such as Pacific Gas and Electric Company's California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE), Family Electric Rate Assistance Program (FERA) and Medical Baseline is crucial now more than ever as they can provide eligible customers 18% to 30% monthly discounts on home energy bills; and

WHEREAS, utility shutoffs have negative impacts on hunger, childhood development, respiratory illnesses, stress levels, chronic illnesses, and increased heat and fire risks²; and

WHEREAS, low-income households are at higher risk of shutoffs for non-payment. In 2019, **5,627** households in all of **Monterey County** were disconnected for non-payment³. This is compared to 91,667 low-income households being shutoff in all Pacific Gas and Electric Company's service territory; and

WHEREAS, Central Coast Energy Services advocates for low-income households to apply for low-income rate assistance programs offered by Pacific Gas and Electric Company and is supported by many partners to prevent utility disconnections and minimize economic hardships;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the **Monterey Board of Supervisors** actively encourage designated low-income constituents to apply for Pacific Gas and Electric Company's low-income rate assistance programs such as California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE), Family Electric Rate Assistance Program (FERA), and/or Medical Baseline Allowance.

¹ https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/uploadedFiles/CPUCWebsite/Content/UtilitiesIndustries/Energy/EnergyPrograms/Infrastructure/DC/TURN_EnergyInsecurityFactSheet.pdf

² http://www.turn.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/2018_TURN_Shut-Off-Report_FINAL.pdf

³ Pacific Gas & Electric Company's (PG&E) Aggregate Monthly Disconnection Data Report filed with the California Public Utilities Commission (January 2020).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to city council members and other social service organizations working with low-income populations to bring awareness to the specified low-income rate assistance programs and encourage enrollment to advance true energy equity in the community.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2021, by the following vote, to wit:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

I, Valeria Ralph, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Monterey, State of California, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of an original order of said Board of Supervisors duly made and entered in the minutes thereof of Minute Book _____ for the meeting on _____, 2021.

Dated:

Valerie Ralph, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
County of Monterey, State of California.

By _____
Deputy